

About you

There is no right or wrong route - choose the option that is right for you and which aligns with your skills, interests and career goals!

Further Education
E.g. A-Levels/ BTEC/T-Levels

**What are my
choices?**

Employment or volunteering
with part-time study

Training
Traineeship/Apprenticeship

How do I like to learn?

Are you a practical learner, or do you like writing essays? Are you good at exams, or do you prefer coursework?

What skills do I have?

What would I like to do in the future?

Do you need a degree for the career that you would like? Would you like to keep your options open? Are there apprenticeships or vocational qualifications available for the subject that you're interested in?

Research tools

Explore the resources listed below to research the difference between A Levels, BTECs and Apprenticeships. Note any differences or considerations about the different options on page 3.

A Levels

- ☐ [UCAS - A-Levels](#)
- ☐ [Career Pilot - A-Levels](#)
- ☐ [The Student Room - A-Level Explorer](#)
- ☐ [Skills for Careers - A-Levels](#)
- ☐ [The Way Up!](#)

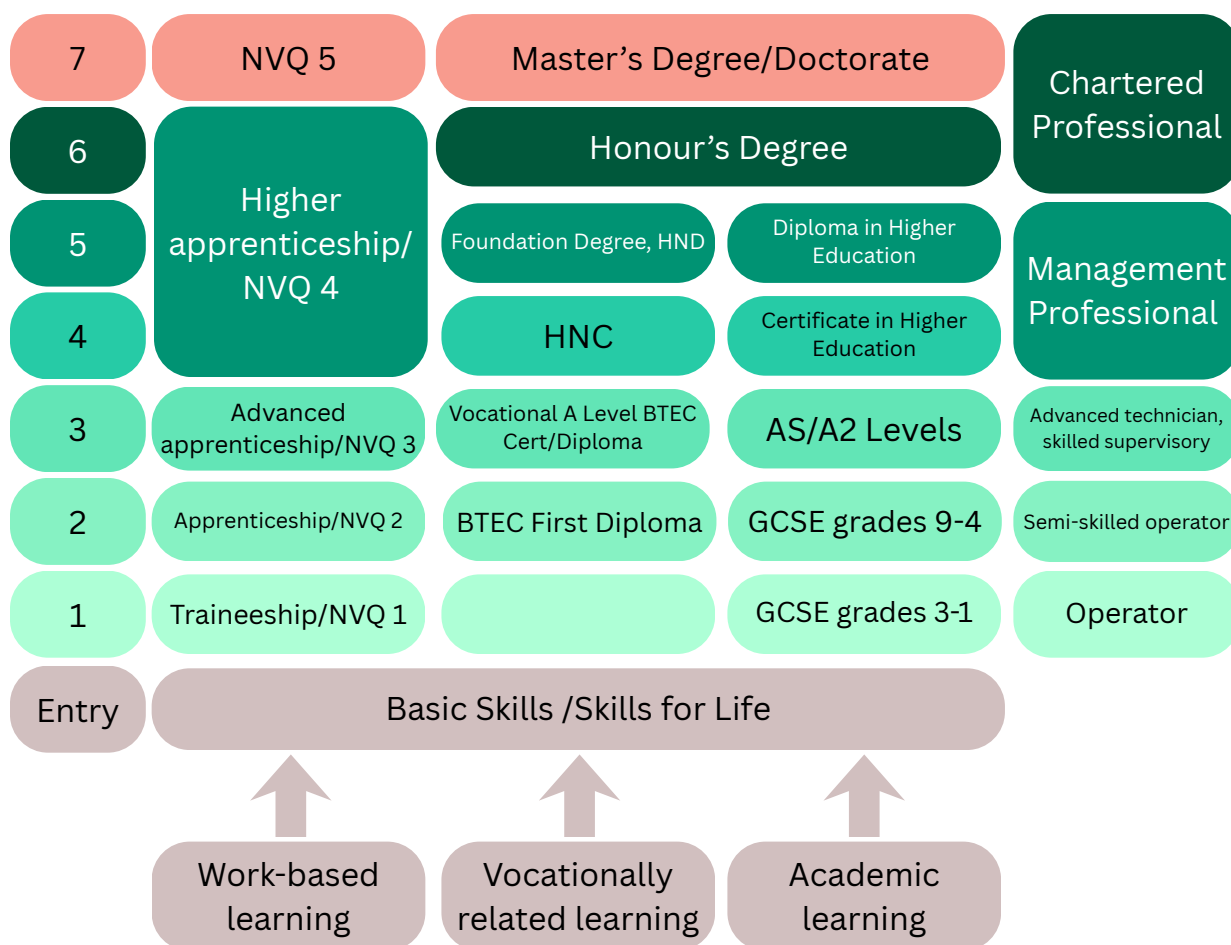
BTECs

- ☐ [UCAS - BTEC Diplomas](#)
- ☐ [Skills for Careers - Vocational Technical Qualifications \(VTQs\)](#)
- ☐ [The Student Room - What are BTECs?](#)
- ☐ [University of Exeter - Getting into university with a BTEC: FAQs](#)
- ☐ [Newcastle University - Can I get into university if I'm studying BTECs?](#)

Apprenticeships

- ☐ [Gov.uk - Become an Apprentice](#)
- ☐ [UCAS - Apprenticeships and traineeships](#)
- ☐ [Apprenticeships.gov.uk](#)
- ☐ [King's Trust - Apprenticeships](#)
- ☐ [Gov.uk - Can you leave school at 16 and what are your options?](#)

Consider your qualification choices



Choices become more varied after GCSEs (or equivalent), consider which qualification type might work best for you. Add the qualification choices you're considering in the top row of the table below. Then, complete the information to help you consider your options.

Factors	A Levels	BTECs	Apprenticeships
How will I be taught and assessed?			
How does this fit with my future plans?			

Consider your subject choices

What subjects do I enjoy?

What subjects would you like to continue studying? Which subjects could support you with your future career aspirations?

Are there any other subjects that you'd like to study?

Are there any subjects that you haven't studied before which you're interested in?

Are there any subjects that you need to take?

If you're considering a specific route, there may be subjects that you're required to have studied, e.g., Maths might be required to study Engineering at University.

Top tip: Use the Russell Group Informed Choices website to see which A Levels are required for particular degrees.

What can you do next?

Research

Take a look at the syllabus or course content for the subjects you are considering, especially if they were not available to you at GCSE level, such as Politics or Psychology. Some students take subjects they think will interest them, but quickly become disappointed when they find it's not what they were expecting.

Future Career Plans

Check how the choices you make might impact your future options.

- Visit www.ucas.com for Higher Education Degrees and Courses. E.g. Nursing Degrees usually require an A level or Level 3 BTEC in a science subject.
- Visit www.notgoingtouni.co.uk if you are not considering university.

Once you've decided - apply to your chosen place of study

- Apply to your choice place of study, some may have entry requirements.
- Check the deadlines for applications.

Further support - Did you know you can access funding?

16 - 19 Bursary Fund - [find out more here.](#)

There are 2 types of 16-to-19 bursary - a discretionary bursary, and a bursary for students in vulnerable groups.

To qualify for this bursary, you must:

- be at least 16, and under the age of 19 on 31 August 2025
- study at a publicly funded school or college, or be on an unpaid training course.
- meet the residency requirements - your school or college can check this for you.

Bursary for students in vulnerable groups

You may be able to get a bursary if at least one of the following applies:

- You're in, or you recently left, local authority care.
- You get Income Support or Universal Credit because you're financially supporting yourself.
- You get Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in your name and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit.
- You get Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in your name and either ESA or Universal Credit.